

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142269

FOL MADRID 5640 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABIDJAN
ADDIS ABABA DAKAR DAR ES SALAAM KHARTOUM LAGOS LIBREVILLE
MONROVIA NAIROBI RABAT MAY 19, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 05640

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PERP, OAU, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT ON CANARIES ISSUE

REF: MADRID 4704 (NOTAL), STATE 122855

1. ON MAY 19 I MET WITH UNDERSECRETARY MIGUEL SOLANO, WHO IS ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE ABSENCE OF OREJA ON ANOTHER SWING TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AND RESPONDED TO OREJA'S REQUEST FOR U.S. SUPPORT OF THE SPANISH POSITION WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES USING THE TALKING POINTS PROVIDED IN PARA 3 OF STATE 122855. WHILE STATING THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS INSTRUCTING OUR EMBASSIES IN KEY AFRICAN CAPITALS INFORMALLY TO URGE GOVERNMENTS TO OPPOSE RAISING THE CANARIES ISSUE AT THE KHARTOUM SUMMIT SHOULD CONVENIENT OCCASIONS PRESENT THEMSELVES TO DO THIS, I
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ALSO EXPLAINED THAT AS A NON-MEMBER OF THE OAU WITH NO FORMAL STATUS WITH RESPECT TO IT WE COULD NOT DO ANYTHING IN THAT MULTILATERAL FORUM. SOLANO FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE LATTER POINT BUT MUCH APPRECIATED THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT HAD BEEN SENT OUT REGARDING BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY DESCRIPTION OF OUR GENERAL

ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION, SOLANO SAID THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT NOW ALSO WAS OPTIMISTIC. THE FOREIGN MINISTER FELT THAT HE HAD HAD FAVORABLE RESPONSES IN ALL OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES THAT HE HAD THUS FAR VISITED EXCEPT NIGERIA. SENEGAL, CAPE VERDE, CAMEROON, MALI, MAURITANIA, MOROCCO AND GABON HAD ALL BEEN RESPONSIVE. IN CONVERSATIONS IN MADRID GUINEA AND THE CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) HAD ALSO BEEN POSITIVE. EVEN LIBYA WAS NOT TOO NEGATIVE. HOWEVER, NIGERIA CONTINUED TO BE PRO-ALGERIA IN ITS POSITION, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE SOFTENED SOMEWHAT AS A RESULT OF OREJA'S VISIT.

3. SOLANO SAID THAT HE WOULD PASS ON WHAT I HAD TOLD HIM TO FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA ON MAY 20 AFTER HIS RETURN FROM HIS PRESENT TRIP. HE WAS SURE THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE PLEASED. HIS OWN VIEW WAS THAT THE BEST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN WOULD PROBABLY BE THAT THE MATTER JUST NOT COME UP AT THE SUMMIT. THIS CONFORMED TO THE POSITION WE WERE TAKING. HE SAID THAT AFTER HIS CONVERSATION WITH OREJA THEY MIGHT BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH US.

4. IN VIEW OF WHAT SOLANO SAID I RATHER EXPECT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL BE BACK IN TOUCH TO ASK THAT THE U.S. MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT WITH REGARD TO NIGERIA.
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